

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

## **EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

RICHARD ARTHUR JONES, #28233-078 §  
versus § CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:20-CV-41  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA § CRIMINAL ACTION NO. 4:18-CR-223(6)

## **MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER**

*Pro se* Movant Richard Arthur Jones filed the above-styled and numbered Motion to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. On March 16, 2020, Movant filed a motion to withdraw his case (Dkt. #4), which is construed as a Notice of Dismissal. Voluntary dismissals are governed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A) that provides, in pertinent part, the movant “ may dismiss an action without a court order by filing: (i) a notice of dismissal before the opposing party serves either an answer or a motion for summary judgment.” “Unless the notice...states otherwise, the dismissal is without prejudice.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(a)(1)(B). The notice of dismissal is self-effectuating and terminates the case in and of itself; no order or other action of the District Court is required. *In re Amerijet Int'l, Inc.*, 785 F.3d 967, 973 (5th Cir. 2015) (per curiam). Thus, once a movant has moved to dismiss under Rule 41(a)(1)(A)(i), the case is effectively terminated; the Court has no power or discretion to deny his right to dismiss or to attach any condition or burden to that right. *Williams v. Ezell*, 531 F.2d 1261, 1264 (5th Cir. 1976); *In re Amerijet Int'l, Inc.*, 785 F.3d at 973; *Carter v. United States*, 547 F.2d 258, 259 (5th Cir. 1977) (party has absolute right to dismiss his legal action under Rule 41(a) prior to the filing of an answer or motion for summary judgment).

In the present case, no answer or motion for summary judgment has been filed; thus, Movant is entitled to the voluntary dismissal of the case without prejudice. Movant's case was dismissed the moment the notice (Dkt. #4) was filed with the Clerk. Moreover, after a notice of

voluntary dismissal is filed, the district court loses jurisdiction over the case. *In re Amerijet Int'l, Inc.*, 785 F.3d at 973.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that Movant's notice of dismissal (Dkt. #4) is self-effectuating and terminates the case in and of itself, and the case is **DISMISSED** without prejudice pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. 41(a)(1)(A)(i). All motions by any party not previously ruled upon are **DENIED**.

SIGNED at Beaumont, Texas, this 28th day of April, 2020.

  
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MARCIA A. CRONE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE